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AUTHOR Neill, A. S.; Lamb, Albert, Ed.
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ABSTRACT

This revised and expanded version of the 1960 classic "Summerhill," edited by Albert Lamb, portrays Summerhill School throughout its development. The book reveals A. S. Neill's fundamental belief in the self-regulated school in which children make their own rules and determine for themselves how much they will study. Neill's commitment to the idea that children should not be coerced to study, that they will come to schoolwork when they are ready, found expression in the progressive school he founded in 1921. The "free" school, in which students practiced self-government, is not an institution with no rules, but rather one in which students decide the rules and apply them democratically. Neill believed that the free child would achieve emotional wholeness and personal strength in an atmosphere of approval and love and that the whole child then would choose to learn and would accomplish a great deal once motivation had developed. The additional material in this edition tells the story of Neill's own life and recounts his debt to the educational and psychological theories of Homer Lane and Wilhelm Reich. Summerhill School continues to operate under the guidance of Neill's daughter, and it remains an influence on the thinking of educators throughout the world. (SLD)

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